

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 625**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN KEN TOOLE**, on April 15, 2005 at 11:00 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Diane Rice, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Ken Toole, Chairman (D)  
Rep. John Balyeat (R)  
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)  
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Kim Leighton, Committee Secretary

**Please Note.** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 625, 4/14/2005  
Executive Action:

**SEN. TOOLE** opened the hearing on HB 625.

**REP. RICE** provided an explanation of the progression of this bill and amendments. She said that this began from an incident in Ennis. There were some amendments made by the Senate which in fact change the scope of the bill. She said she resisted the amendments and that is why this is in a Conference Committee.

**MOTION:** **REP. RICE moved to STRIKE AMENDMENT 721353SC.sse FROM HB 625.**

**SEN. HARRINGTON** asked **REP. RICE** why she wanted to do this.

**REP. RICE** stated that she does not like what this amendment does to the bill. It includes bona fide resort areas, and Livingston is in fact a small city on the outskirts of Yellowstone. She attested that it was never the intent of the bill to include areas like this. Therefore she wishes to strike the amendment.

**REP. GRINDE** inquired which areas of the amendment she does not like. She wondered if she opposed Part 1 and Part 3 of the amendments or just Part 2.

**SEN. TOOLE** ascertained that he believes **REP. RICE** wants to strike all of the amendment, not just parts of it.

**REP. RICE** said this bill needs to move forward. She stated that almost every other year people were bringing resort requests forward. This action really divided the entire town of Ennis; that is why this bill has come forward.

**SEN. BARKUS** attested that he supports **REP. RICE** on this. He explained that these resorts derive most of their income from non-residents.

**SEN. HARRINGTON** said that he also supports this motion.

**SEN. TOOLE** inquired into the status of the \$8,500 associated with Livingston.

**Lee Heiman, Legislative Services Division**, explained that the other bill that contained this figure was SB 151, which is now tabled.

**SEN. TOOLE** confirmed that this would require Livingston to hold an election because it would apply to them. Therefore, he opposed the amendment.

**REP. McALPIN** attested that Livingston wants options; he also opposes this.

**VOTE:** The motion passed 4-3 with **SEN. TOOLE**, **REP. McALPIN** and **REP. GRINDE** voting no.

REP. RICE, SEN. TOOLE and Lee Heiman discussed what would happen with this bill next.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:10 A.M.

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SEN. KEN TOOLE, Chairman

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KIM LEIGHTON, Secretary

KT/DR/kl

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([cch81hb0000aad0.TIF](#))**